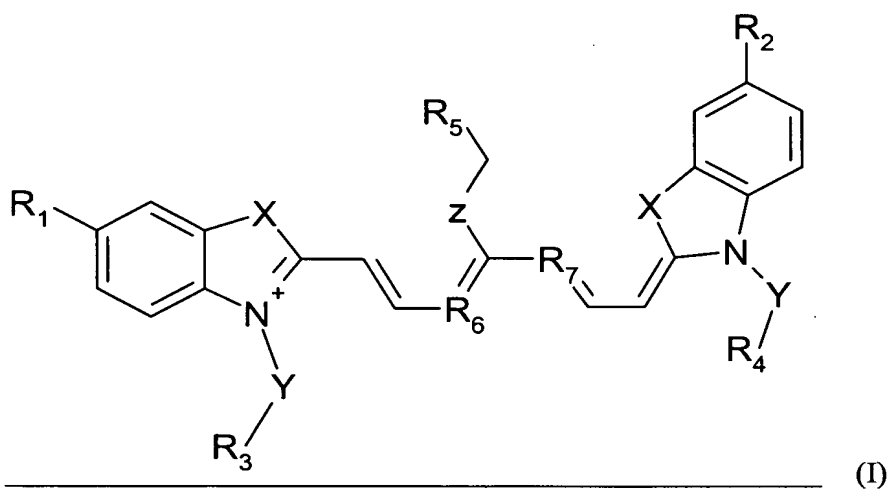
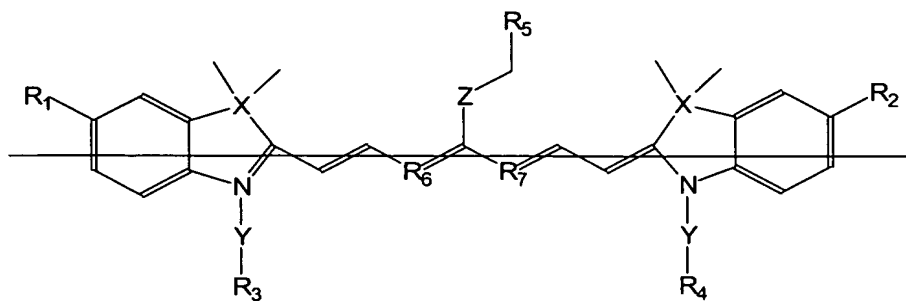


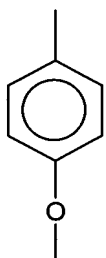
**Amendments to the Specification**

***Please amend the formula appearing on page 4, line 2 from the bottom of the page as follows:***



***Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 1 as follows:***

X is O, S or C that is substituted in two places, whereby the substituents can be selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl and/or butyl; Y is CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>; Z is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, whereby the C atoms are optionally replaced ~~substituted~~ by O or S, or



***Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 6 from the bottom of the page as follows:***

Preferred is an indotricarbocyanine dye of this invention, in which Y is CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>; Z is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, whereby the C atoms are optionally replaced ~~substituted~~ by O or S, and in which R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are CH, and salts and solvates of this compound.